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ABSTRACT

The Indian Education Legal Support Project emphasizes the legal rights of tribes to control the formal education of their members. The project's work includes developing tribal education laws and reforming state and national Indian education legislation. This document compiles 10 voluntary cooperative agreements among federal, public, and tribal schools and between Indian organizations with regard to various Indian education matters as of October 1, 1998. The agreements are voluntary because, while federal, state, and tribal laws may authorize such agreements, no law requires them. Summaries of the 10 agreements are presented, followed by the full text of the agreements. Five agreements between a public school district and a tribe, tribal school, or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) school address creation of a joint school board; joint operation of a public school, a tribal or BIA school, and a new program for at-risk tribal students; and distribution of state funding for American Indian students in a public school district. Three agreements among tribal schools address cooperative arrangements for student bus transportation, cooperative sponsorship of student sports, and shared special education services. The other two agreements establish an interdistrict consortium of six public school districts to meet the needs of Native students, and formalize the relationship of two national Indian organizations on Indian education matters. (SV)

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